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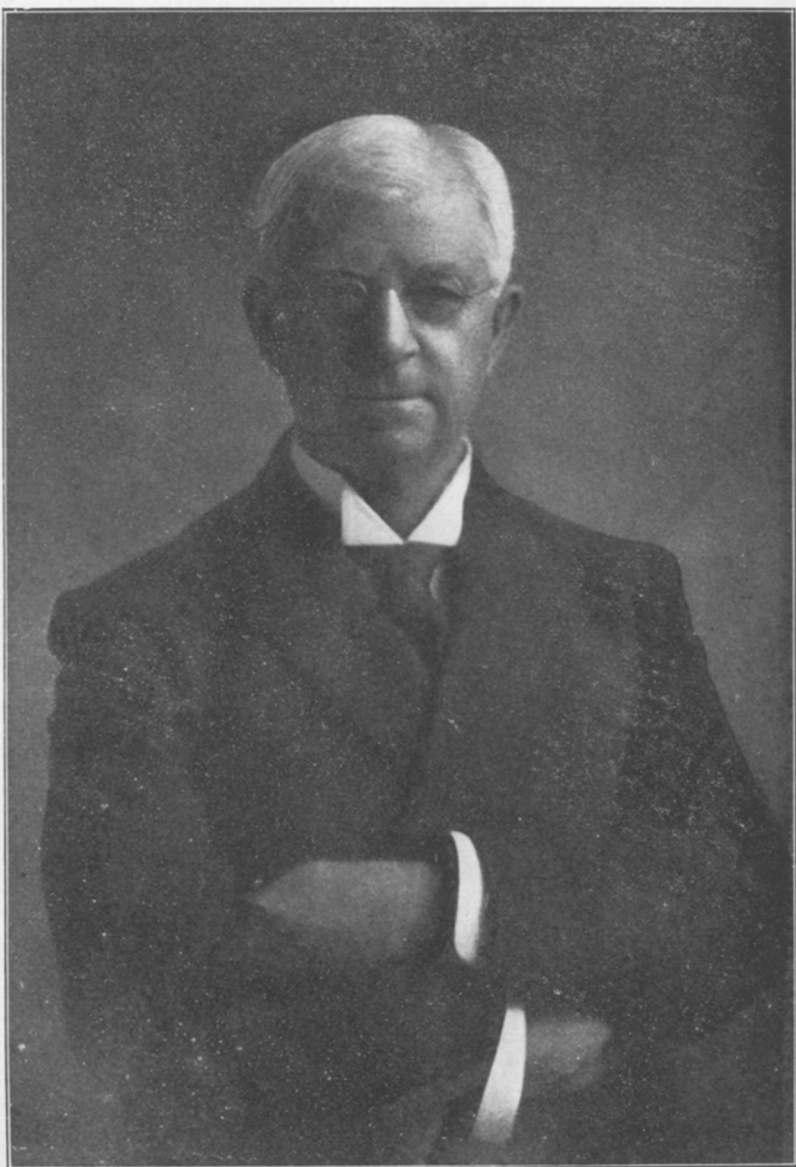
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Edward Lee Greene

BORN, HOPKINTON, R. I., AUGUST 20, 1843
DIED, WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 10, 1915

IN MEMORIAM.

Botanists and scientific men generally in this country and abroad will realize that in the passing away of Dr. Edward Lee Greene, the world has lost one of its ablest scholars and a modest type of perfect gentlemen. His work for thorough, exact, remarkable insight into questions trying and difficult was even more respectfully acknowledged and praised in the old world than at home in America. He was one of those gentle unselfish kindly men that allow no obstacle to stand in the way towards the attainment of truth in every line of endeavor, scientific or religious. Concerning the assistance which in a hidden way he gave to the needy with the modest means at his hand in pecuniary matters, we have heard from all sides, and that too with out any hope or expectation of return. His kindness in spending his precious time helping others in things scientific has been felt by all who have had the pleasure of being associated with him but a short time. His particular form of charity was assisting others too learn, or educate themselves.

Scientific research was so thoroughly a passion with him that no mere matters of earthly gain or temporal expedience could tempt him from seeking always the higher things. In fact, this caption, the motto of his bookmark, has been the guiding ideal of his whole long useful and unselfish career: "*Altiora petivimus*," "We have striven for the higher things." None but the highest and most difficult problems could tempt his attention.

When the botany of the Eastern United States began to languish after Asa Gray, Engellman and Torrey had passed away, Dr. Greene fresh from fields of the West, showed the students of the Atlantic Flora that many a new and unknown species still blushed unseen at their very feet. When he began to publish new plants from a region hitherto considered to be well known, botanists were at first incredulous, but finally felt that they had been lulled to inactivity. When the better part of his life had been spent in another field of work, we owe it to him to have aroused us in the East to zeal and activity in studying the unknown wonders of our botanic region. Not a few journals of natural history came into being or were encouraged to higher and better work by his coming among us.

Dr. Greene was born in Hookinton, R. I., Aug. 20, 1843.

When he was still a boy his parents moved West and settled along the Sangamon River in Illinois. He served in the Civil War as private and on the campaign, collected plants and determined them in odd moments from a copy of Wood's botany which he carried in his knapsack. After the war he received the degree Ph. B. at Albion, Wisconsin in 1866. Thenceforth a longing to botanize in other fields drew him to Colorado in 1870. Here he became an Episcopal minister, and he asked for charges in country places the better to devote his spare time to his favorite science. He botanized through Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. He was instructor, or professor, in the University of California from 1885 to 1895, when he came East to take the chair of Botany in the Catholic University of America at Washington, D. C. In 1894 he received the doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. In May, 1904, he left the Catholic University and became honorary associate in Botany in the Smithsonian Institute, where he had been occupied in research in systematic and historical botany until in the fall of 1914 he arranged to come to Notre Dame University to take charge of the graduate course in botany. His numerous collections and library were left to the University. Dr. Greene died after a rather prolonged wasting and painful stomach trouble at Providence Hospital, Washington, D. C., on Nov. 10, 1915. He had gone to Washington to meet again his old friends and associates and finish the remaining chapters of his second volume of "Landmarks."

Dr. Greene will be remembered by all who knew him long or met him but casually as a type of gentlemanly kindness and modesty that betokens deep learning. Little, however, would the ordinary observer suspect his profound erudition except by long association. Kind and gentle with all he could be unrelenting in attacking sham or presumptuous ignorance when he could use all the power of art and elegant expression in sustaining what he considered truth. There are some who were not in sympathy with his ideas of plant divisions, but the botanists with keen sense of analysis and deep perception of differences, in contradistinction to the dilettante always respected his views. There are those who did not share his opinions on priority of nomenclature, but none that know the intricacies of these questions will hesitate to admire or fear his wonderful erudition. As a historical botanist he ranks alone in America.